

# Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department

## Supervisor's Report on Use of Force

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### Incident Information

URN: 5 0 9 - 0 9 6 7 0 - 2 1 1 6 - 0 5 8		Date: 5/16/09	Time: 2100 Hours
Location: [REDACTED] Palm Avenue	City or Station: Lynwood		
Bureau/Station/Facility: FOR2 / Century Station	Admin. Investigation: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Type of Force: Significant: Personal Weapons, Baton, Control Holds, Resisted Handcuffing			
Deputy Injury: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>		Suspect Injury: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Call	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Observation	<input type="checkbox"/> Detail	<input type="checkbox"/> Foot Pursuit <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle Pursuit
IAB Notified: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Person Notified: Lt. Kusch	Emp: [REDACTED]	IAB Roll Out: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Involved Employee

E1	Employee # [REDACTED]	Last Name: Zuniga	First Name: Raul	Middle Name:
Sex: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Race: H	Unit of Assignment: FOR2 / Century	
Shift: <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PM		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty	Age: [REDACTED]	Height: 5'08" Weight: 180
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Injured <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Treated <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted Hospital: US Health Works, Compton			Coroner Case #	Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

E2	Employee # [REDACTED]	Last Name: [REDACTED]	First Name: [REDACTED]	Middle Name: [REDACTED]
Sex: [REDACTED]		Race: [REDACTED]	Unit of Assignment: [REDACTED]	
Shift: [REDACTED]		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty	Age: [REDACTED]	Height: [REDACTED] Weight: [REDACTED]
<input type="checkbox"/> Injured <input type="checkbox"/> Treated <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted Hospital: [REDACTED]			Coroner Case #	Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

E\	Employee # [REDACTED]	Last Name: [REDACTED]	First Name: [REDACTED]	Middle Name: [REDACTED]
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		Race: [REDACTED]	Unit of Assignment: [REDACTED]	
Shift: <input type="checkbox"/> EM <input type="checkbox"/> Day <input type="checkbox"/> PM		<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Shift <input type="checkbox"/> OT Shift <input type="checkbox"/> Off Duty	Age: [REDACTED]	Height: [REDACTED] Weight: [REDACTED]
<input type="checkbox"/> Injured <input type="checkbox"/> Treated <input type="checkbox"/> Admitted Hospital: [REDACTED]			Coroner Case #	Directed Force <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Force <input type="checkbox"/>

### Additional Involved Employees

### On Duty Supervisor

Emp. # [REDACTED]	Last Name: Bardon	First Name: Joshua	Middle Name: A	Rank: SGT	Present: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Witness to Incident: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emp. # [REDACTED]	Last Name: [REDACTED]	First Name: [REDACTED]	Middle Name: [REDACTED]	Rank: [REDACTED]	Present: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Witness to Incident: YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

### Watch Sergeant

Emp. # [REDACTED]	Last Name: Bevans	First Name: William	Middle Name: C
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### Watch Commander

Emp. # [REDACTED]	Last Name: Ellison	First Name: Adam	Middle Name: C
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Lieutenant Adam Ellison	Watch Commander's Signature: [Signature]	Emp #: [REDACTED]	Date: 5-30-09
Sergeant Joshua Bardon	Sergeant Joshua Bardon	Emp #: [REDACTED]	Date: [REDACTED]
Supervisor Completing Form: (Print Name) Captain James J. Hellmold	Copy Provided to Employee by: [Signature]	Emp #: [REDACTED]	Date: 7/2/07
Unit Commander (Print Name)	Unit Commander's Signature: [Signature]	Emp #: [REDACTED]	Date: [REDACTED]

DISCOVERY Use Only

FO# 2246527

Original: Discovery Unit  
Copy: Unit Commander SH-R-438P (Rev. 07/08)

Yuban 3/8/10

NOTED  
TODD S. ROGERS

2-DVDR  
2-CDR

# Supervisor's Report on Use of Force SUSPECT INFORMATION

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Suspect Information									
Last Name	Dawson			First Name	Edward		Middle Name	Deshawn	
AKA Last Name	N/A			First Name	N/A		Middle Name	N/A	
Sex: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Race: B	Street Address:			City:	State & Zip Code:			
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Age: 18	Height: 5'07"	D.O.B. 06-10-90	Weight: 140	Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>			
Booking #: 1912565	Primary Charge Code: 664/187 P.C.			Secondary Charge Code: 11350(a) H&S			Criminal History		
EMT in attendance? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Name: Unit: Phone #:									
Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd Treatment At: St. Francis Medical Center Coroner Case #: N/A Mental History <input type="checkbox"/>									
By Doctor: Kazan Address: 3630 East Imperial Highway, Lynwood Phone #: 310-900-8900									
Under Influence: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Substance: Marijuana Mental Illness <input type="checkbox"/>									

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Suspect Information									
Last Name	Robertson			First Name	Charles		Middle Name	Laran	
AKA Last Name	N/A			First Name	N/A		Middle Name	N/A	
Sex: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Race: B	Street Address:			City:	State & Zip Code:			
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Age: 26	Height: 6'02"	D.O.B. 11-10-82	Weight: 193	Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>			
Booking #: 1912446	Primary Charge Code: 664/187 P.C.			Secondary Charge Code: 69 P.C.			Criminal History		
EMT in attendance? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Name: Unit: Phone #:									
Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd Treatment At: Coast Plaza Doctor's Hospital Coroner Case #: Mental History <input type="checkbox"/>									
By Doctor: Cole Address: 13100 Studebaker Road, Norwalk Phone #: 562-868-3751									
Under Influence: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO Substance: Mental Illness: <input type="checkbox"/>									

S /

Suspect Information									
Last Name				First Name			Middle Name		
AKA Last Name				First Name			Middle Name		
Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Race:	Street Address:			City:	State & Zip Code:			
Work Phone:	Home Phone:	Age:	Height:	D.O.B.	Weight:	Armed? <input type="checkbox"/>			
Booking #:	Primary Charge Code:			Secondary Charge Code:			Criminal History <input type="checkbox"/>		
EMT in attendance? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Name: Unit: Phone #:									
Hospital Admission? <input type="checkbox"/> Rec'd Treatment At: Coroner Case #: Mental History <input type="checkbox"/>									
By Doctor: Address: Phone #:									
Under Influence: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO Substance: Mental Illness <input type="checkbox"/>									

# Supervisor's Report on Use of Force EMPLOYEE / NON-EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

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## Employee Witnesses

Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name
Emp. #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name

## Non-Employee Witnesses

Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.
Last Name	First Name	Middle Name	Age	D.O.B.
Street Address	City	Zip Code	Work Ph.	Home Ph.

☐ Additional Witness

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## Method

(AW) Arwen	(FH) Firearm (Handgun)	(PO) Personal Weapon (Other)
(BC) Baton: (Control)	(FR) Firearm (Rifle)	(RS) Resistance
(BI) Baton: (Impact)	(FS) Firearm (Shotgun)	(CN) Restraint Device (Capture Net)
(BF) Bodily Fluids	(FO) Firearm (Other)	(RH) Restraint Device (Handcuffs)
(CN) Canine	(FB) Flashbang	(HB) Restraint Device: Hobble (Legs Only)
(CR) Carotid Restraint	(FL) Flashlight	(TP) Restraint Device: Hobble (TARP)
(CH) Choke Hold	(OE) Other Weapon: Edged	(RE) Restraint Device: REACT Belt
(CT) Control Holds: (Control Techniques)	(OV) Other Weapon: Vehicle	(SP) Sap
(TT) Control Holds: (Team Takedown)	(OB) Other Weapon: Blunt Object	(SH) Shield
(TD) Control Holds: (Takedown)	(OO) Other Weapon: Other	(SG) 37mm Stinger
(CE) Chemical	(PK) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Kick)	(SB) Sting Ball
(OC) Chemical Agents (OC Spray)	(PS) Personal Weapon: Feet/Leg: (Sweep)	(ST) Stun Bag
(TG) Chemical Agents (Tear Gas)	(PH) Personal Weapon (Hand/Arm)	(TR) Taser
(EX) Explosives	(PP) Personal Weapon (Push)	(UC) Uncooperative

## Type of Injury

(AB) Abrasion	(DB) Dog Bite	(PA) Paralysis
(BR) Bruise	(FR) Fractures	(PW) Puncture Wound
(BU) Burn	(GS) Gunshot	(SD) Soft Tissue Damage
(CP) Complaint of Pain	(HB) Human Bite	(ST) Sprain/Twists
(CO) Concussion	(LC) Lacerations	(UN) Unconscious
(DH) Death	(ND) Nerve Damage	(RM) Refused Med Treatment
(DI) Dislocation	(OD) Organ Damage	(NN) NONE

## Body Part Injured

(AD) Abdomen	(FA) Face	(HI) Hip
(AK) Ankle	(FE) Feet	(IN) Internal
(AR) Arm	(FI) Fingers	(KN) Knees
(BK) Back	(GE) Genitals	(LE) Leg
(BT) Buttocks	(GR) Groin	(NK) Neck
(CH) Chest	(HD) Hands	(NO) Nose
(EL) Elbow	(HE) Head	(SH) Shoulder
		(WR) Wrist

FORCE USED BY		FORCE USED AGAINST		Method (Code)	Type of Injury (Code)	Body Part (Code)
Name	E# or S#	Name	E# or S#			
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	UC	NN	
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	RS	NN	
Zuniga	E#1	Dawson	S#1	CT	NN	
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	PH	CP	FA
Zuniga	E#1	Dawson	S#1	PH	CP,FR	FA
Zuniga	E#1	Dawson	S#1	CT	AB	KN
Robertson	S#2	Zuniga	E#1	OO	NN	
Zuniga	E#1	Robertson	S#2	PH	NN	
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	PH	CP	FA
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	PO	NN	
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	PP	NN	
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	PO	NN	
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	PH	NN	
Dawson	S#1	Zuniga	E#1	RS	NN	
Zuniga	E#1	Dawson	S#1	PH	CP	FA
Zuniga	E#1	Dawson	S#1	CT	NN	
Dawson	S#1		E#2	RS	NN	
	E#2	Dawson	S#1	PH	CP	BK
	E#2	Dawson	S#1	BI	BR	BK
Zuniga	E#1	Dawson	S#1	RH	NN	
	E#2	Dawson	S#1	RH	NN	

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**Force Applied**

**SIGNIFICANT / PERSONAL WEAPONS / BATON / CONTROL HOLDS**

**Incident Details**

Deputy Zuniga legally detained Suspect Dawson, Suspect Robertson, and Witness [REDACTED] regarding a narcotics investigation. Suspect Dawson was resistive and began to walk away from Deputy Zuniga who tried to stop Suspect Dawson. Deputy Zuniga gave him commands to face away from him and attempted to handcuff him. Suspect Dawson spun around and hit Deputy Zuniga in the face.

Suspect Dawson then began punching Deputy Zuniga in the face. Deputy Zuniga responded with personal weapons punching Suspect Dawson in the face and ordered him to stop fighting. Suspect Dawson continued his attack on Deputy Zuniga. Deputy Zuniga was able to pin Suspect Dawson against a fence however Suspect Dawson called Suspect Robertson for help and said, "let's kill this nigger". Deputy Zuniga then saw Suspect Robertson attempt to remove his duty weapon from his holster. Deputy Zuniga then punched Suspect Robertson in the face once, and Suspect Robertson stepped back.

Suspect Dawson continued to fight with Deputy Zuniga and ripped his radio from his gun belt. Deputy Zuniga created distance between himself and Suspect Dawson, however Suspect Dawson continued his advance. Deputy Zuniga responded with several more punches forcing Suspect Dawson back. Suspect Dawson then tripped on the sidewalk and Deputy Zuniga was able to pin him on the ground. Suspect Dawson continued to fight and tried to get up while Deputy Zuniga gave him orders to stay on the ground and stop fighting.

Deputy [REDACTED] arrived on scene and assisted Deputy Zuniga in controlling Suspect Dawson. Suspect Dawson placed his hands under his body and ignored the deputies' commands for him to show his hands. Deputy [REDACTED] punched Suspect Dawson in the torso area two to three times and gave him verbal orders to stop fighting however Suspect Dawson continued to fight. Deputy [REDACTED] then struck Suspect Dawson four to five times with the butt end of his collapsed expandable baton on the right side of his torso. Suspect Dawson then complied with deputies' orders to put his hands out to his sides. When Deputy [REDACTED] took hold of Suspect Dawson's wrist, he pulled it back under his chest. Deputy [REDACTED] then struck Suspect Dawson on the right side of his torso again with his collapsed baton. Suspect Dawson then complied and Deputy Zuniga was able to control Suspect Dawson's left arm while Deputy [REDACTED] controlled the right arm and he was then handcuffed without further incident.

Suspect Robertson and Witness [REDACTED] had fled the scene and was apprehended by assisting units without incident.

**Reported Use of Force by Involved Employee(s)**

Deputy Zuniga completed a written report (Incident Report, SH-49) of his observations and actions, which was consistent with his verbal notification to me (Sergeant Bardon).



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Deputy [REDACTED] completed a written report (Supplemental) of his observations and actions, which was consistent with his verbal notification to me (Sergeant Bardon).

**Witness Interview(s)**

[REDACTED]

Miss [REDACTED] was on a [REDACTED] with Deputy Zuniga when the above use of force incident occurred. She is currently [REDACTED] and was attending the [REDACTED] as a [REDACTED]. Miss [REDACTED] remembered seeing Suspect Dawson separate himself from the other male Black adults. Both Deputy Zuniga and Suspect Dawson then went out of her view while she remained seated in the patrol vehicle. Despite having a blocked view, she saw Deputy Zuniga and Suspect Dawson involved in a fight, punching one another, as they rolled around on the ground. She also heard Deputy Zuniga give repeated verbal orders for Suspect Dawson to stop fighting. Later, she saw Deputy [REDACTED] and several other responding units arrive on scene.

[REDACTED]

Mr. [REDACTED] was contacted, detained, and eventually interviewed by Sergeant Martin Rojas shortly after the use of force incident. Mr. [REDACTED] remembered seeing Deputy Zuniga driving near the intersection of Palm Avenue and Oak Street, in the city of Lynwood. However, Mr. [REDACTED] denied ever being involved in the incident or being a witness of it.

**Suspect Interview(s)**

**Suspect Interview(s) Conducted By:** ☒ Watch Commander ☒ Supervising Sergeant

**SUSPECT EDWARD DAWSON**

On May 17, 2009, at approximately 0346 hours, Lieutenant Adam Ellison and I conducted a videotaped interview of Suspect Dawson at the Century Regional Detention Facility.

During the interview, Suspect Dawson made several different claims about the force used during the incident. Several of these claims contradicted statements made earlier by Suspect Dawson during my initial videotaped interview.

Suspect Dawson stated he was approached by Deputy Zuniga, who pointed his duty weapon at him while illuminating him with a flashlight. According to Suspect Dawson, Deputy Zuniga maintained an instigating tone with him while asking about his gang affiliation. Suspect Dawson admitted to being uncooperative with Deputy Zuniga and to turning toward Deputy Zuniga. After being punched by Deputy Zuniga, Suspect Dawson admitted to "wrestling" with Deputy Zuniga for several minutes.

During my initial interview with Suspect Dawson, he stated Deputy Zuniga kned him several times in the face as they remained on their feet, fighting one another. According to Suspect Dawson, the knee strikes

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caused one of his front teeth to chip. However, during the subsequent interview with Lieutenant Ellison and myself, Suspect Dawson stated he was both kneed and kicked in the face while handcuffed. Suspect Dawson attributed the cause of his chipped front tooth to having been kicked in the face while he lay, handcuffed, on the ground.

Suspect Dawson continued to make several claims of being struck multiple times by a baton, and having his head slammed on the concrete sidewalk as he lay, handcuffed, on the ground. However, I was one of the first persons to arrive on scene, and was able to witness the handcuffing of Suspect Dawson. At no time was any force used on Suspect Dawson after he was handcuffed.

In describing the force used upon his person, Suspect Dawson provided the following: two baton strikes to the right rib cage area, one baton strike to the facial area, four baton strikes to his legs, fifty knee strikes to the head area, and thousands of punches. Further, Suspect Dawson alleged that multiple deputies used force on him.

Suspect Dawson complained of pain to his face, right rib cage area, and both legs. He had visible bruising and swelling on his face and right rib cage area. He also had abrasions on both knees. Suspect Dawson acknowledged that he had been treated for his injuries by medical staff. In terms of drug use, Suspect Dawson admitted to ingesting marijuana shortly before the incident.

#### **SUSPECT CHARLES ROBERTSON**

On May 17, 2009, at approximately 0411 hours, Lieutenant Adam Ellison and I conducted a videotaped interview of Suspect Robertson at the Century Regional Detention.

Suspect Robertson denied ever being involved in the incident or being struck by Deputy Zuniga. Further, Suspect Robertson stated he had no injuries, and did not complain of pain.

#### **Medical Review**

Suspect Dawson was transported to St. Francis Hospital for a medical examination and to obtain medical clearance for booking. Doctor Kazan examined Suspect Dawson under patient number 001081666. Suspect Dawson was examined and treated for his injuries. Suspect Dawson's injuries consisted of an orbital fracture to the left side of his face along with bruising to both sides of his face. He also complained of pain to his right rib cage area, and had visible bruising. Additionally, Suspect Dawson had abrasions on both knees, and a chipped front tooth. Suspect Dawson was later okayed for booking.

Initially, I discussed the force used on Suspect Dawson with Doctor Kazan. He indicated the injuries to Suspect Dawson were consistent with the force used. He further elaborated that an orbital fracture is a very common injury caused by hand strikes to the face. I then discussed Suspect Dawson's description of the force used with Doctor Kazan. Doctor Kazan indicated the injuries were not consistent with Suspect Dawson's account. Additionally, it was Doctor Kazan's opinion that multiple knee strikes to the face would have caused more extensive injuries, including multiple fractures to his facial bones and nose. As for the alleged baton strikes to the legs and face, Doctor Kazan saw no visible injuries to validate Suspect Dawson's claim.

Suspect Robertson was transported to Coast Plaza Doctor's Hospital in Norwalk for a medical examination

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by Doctor Cole. Doctor Cole examined Suspect Robertson under patient number 228251. He later received an okay for booking after it was confirmed he had no injuries.

**Training & Tactical Review**

☒ **Debriefing held to discuss training and tactical issues.**

In debriefing the incident, I commended Deputies Zuniga and [REDACTED] on their restraint and minimal use of force in an incident which warranted the use of lethal force. Also, the use of several verbal commands afforded the suspect several opportunities to stop fighting. Deputy Zuniga's quick thinking and immediate reaction to the assault by Suspect Dawson precluded an escape.

**Watch Commander's Review**

This use of force was objectively reasonable. The use of personal weapons by Deputy Zuniga and limited baton strikes by Deputy [REDACTED] against an assaultive - high risk suspect is consistent with department policy and training. This situation could have easily turned into a justified deadly force situation. Deputy Zuniga's aggressive defense likely saved his life.

**Case Status**

The facts of the initial case were submitted to the District Attorney's Office at Compton Court for filing consideration. A felony charge of 69 PC was filed against Suspect Dawson and Suspect Robertson, under case number TA106626. Suspect Dawson was additionally charged with 11350(a) HS, 148(a)(1) PC, and 243(b) PC. Suspect Robertson was also additionally charged with 148(a)(1) PC.